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THE CASE of SALT-PETRE.

The Bill now depending is for the free Importation of Salt-petre *from all parts in Amity with their Majesties for the Term of* *for the Use of their Majesties Ships and Army, and that the Merchants may be furnished with* Gun-powder *for their Ships at reasonable Rates.*

IN case their Majesties had a Necessity for *Petre*, this Bill (being for the free Importation without *Custom*) would be prejudicial to them, by raising the Price in *Holland*, and so the *Dutch* would receive the Benefit of this Bill.

But if there were a *Custom* Imposed of Sixty pounds *per* Tun, this would fall the Price in *Holland*, so that their Majesties might buy it cheap there for their own Use, and receive a Benefit by the *Customs* of what is Imported by Merchants.

As to the furnishing Merchants Cheap, there is the same Reason for the free Importation of all Commodities from *Holland*, which are cheaper there than in *England*, and thereby to give the *Dutch* the Monopoly, for the Interest of their *Money* and Pay of their *Sea-men* being so much less than ours, they will alwayes undersell us.

But it is suspected that this *Bill* is promoted by private Merchants who (on Confidence thereof) have bought *Petre* at the last Sale at *Amsterdam*, which began 13 *Novemb.* last, and intend to Import and sell it here, before the Arrival of the *East-India* Ships, which are Expected in two or three Months with *Petre* sufficient to supply their Majesties Stores for next Winter: And in the mean Time there will be great Quantities made in *England*, and the Stores are already provided to furnish the *Fleet* and *Army* for next Summer; and in Case there were no *Salt-Petre* in *England*, the King may be, and is yearly furnished with what *Powder* he wants from *Holland*.

THE CASE OF Salt-Petre,